

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 188194

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T STATE 188194

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 10744 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
AUG 13TH. QUOTE.

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 10744

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IN

SUBJECT: MIDLINK 74 OR THE NEW ARMADA

1. I WOULD HOPE THAT SOMEONE BACK THERE HAS FOCUSED ON THE
POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE CENTO EXERCISE MIDLINK 74, WHICH
IS DUE TO TAKE PLACE IN AND OFF KARACHI FROM NOVEMBER 19 TO
26. IT IS NOT FOR US TO OFFER ADVICE ON MILITARY EXERCISES
AROUND THE WORLD BUT, AS MIDLINK 74 IS CERTAINLY THE GRANDEST
AND LARGEST CENTO OPERATION IN A DECADE, AN EXERCISE WHICH
WILL INCLUDE ONE OF THE SHOWPIECES OF THE US NAVY, THE AIR-
CRAFT CARRIER CONSTELLATION, AND TWO NUCLEAR ATTACK SUBMARINES
(ONE BRITISH) AMONG THE 43 SHIPS INVOLVED, TOGETHER WITH A
LARGE NUMBER OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT IN PRODUC-
TION (F-111'S, FOR EXAMPLE), WE ARE INTERESTED IN HOW IT
MAY BE INTERPRETED IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

2. (A) THE SECRETARY WILL HAVE BEEN THROUGH THE SUBCONTINENT
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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 188194

JUST PRIOR TO THE EXERCISE. HE WILL HAVE BEEN TALKING, WE

IMAGINE--AMONG OTHER THINGS-- ABOUT PEACE AND NON-PROLIFERATION AND THE GENERAL INTERESTS OF THE US IN STABILITY, RECONCILIATION, AND DETENTE IN SOUTH ASIA. DIEGO GARCIA AND ITS GENERAL ROLE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, AS WELL AS THE BROADER QUESTION OF GREAT-POWER NAVAL ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA, WILL SURELY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. (B) THE SOVIET NAVY WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY FOLLOW THE FLEET, AND THE EXERCISE MAY WELL ELICIT A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. (C) IT WILL NOT BE LOST ON INDIA THAT AN EXERCISE WHICH, IN PART, IS AIMED AT A HYPOTHETICAL DEFENSE OF KARACHI AGAINST A NAVAL/AIR ATTACK COULD AT LEAST BE INTERPRETED AS AIMED AT A DEFENSE OF PAKISTAN AGAINST AN INDIAN ATTACK.

3. IT MAY WELL BE THAT ALL THESE CONSIDERATIONS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY WEIGHED AND THAT THE EXERCISE HAS, IN FACT, BEEN DESIGNED TO WORRY THE SOVIETS, REASSURE THE PAKISTANIS, WARN THE INDIANS, ASSERT OUR NAVAL RIGHTS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF DIEGO GARCIA IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND TO DO SO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SECRETARY'S TRIP. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT MAY NOT. MOYNIHAN
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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